

from said peripheral connecting portion to form a mounting portion for mounting to a side structure of the vehicle.

#### REMARKS

Claims 4 and 7 through 11 remain in this application. Claims 3 and 8-11 are rejected. Claims 4 and 7 are allowed. Claim 3 is now cancelled and claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 were previously cancelled. Claims 4, 7, 8 and 11 are amended herein to clarify the subject matter of the invention.

The applicant and applicant's attorney appreciate the Examiner's granting of the telephone interview conducted on January 27, 2000 and extend their thanks to the Examiner for her time and consideration. During the interview agreement was reached that the amendments presented herein and discussed would be entered and the application allowed.

Claims 3 and 8-11 are rejected as obvious over Buchner in view of Yamada under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicants herein respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 4 and 7 are allowed. Claim 3 is cancelled rendering said rejection moot. Claims 8-11, which previously depended from claim 3, are amended to depend either directly or indirectly from allowed claim 4. Hence, claims 8-11 include the subject matter of claim 4 indicated as allowable. Accordingly,

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reconsideration of the rejection of claims 8-11 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$110.00 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,

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